

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

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"BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL"

In addressing saints the apostle Paul said: "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise. Redeeming the time, *because the days are evil.* (emp. mine-ed.) Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." (Eph. 5:14-17). Nearly 2,000 years ago the apostle Paul mentioned "this present evil world" in Gal. 1:4. In 2 Tim. 3:1 he warned that "in the last days perilous times shall come." In the following verse he tells why such would be the case.

In our first text we learn what we should *do* in view of the fact that "the days are evil." Let us now consider some of those things.

1. "*Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead...*" If we are asleep spiritually, inactive, sluggish or lukewarm, *we should awake and arise from the dead* because "*the days are evil!*" According to Tit. 2:14 we should be "*zealous of good works.*" Also read 1 Cor. 15:34; Rev. 3:1-6 & Rev. 3:14-22.

2. "*See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time,*" because "*the days are evil.*" To walk *circumspectly* is to walk *carefully*. The result of walking *carefully* will be accurately.

To "*walk circumspectly*" is to walk with wisdom. To walk otherwise is foolish.

If we walk *carefully* we will not walk in darkness, but in the light. We will not walk in the works of the flesh, but we will produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. (Cf. Gal. 5:19-23). If we walk *carefully* we will not be deceived by false teachers, riches or evil associations. (Cf. Mt. 7:15-20; Mt. 3:13-20; 1 Cor. 15:33; etc.).

Each of us has the responsibility to "*redeem the time*" because "*the days are evil.*" Some of the translations say, "*making the most of the time*" (RSV) or "*making the most of your time*" (NASV) or "*Make good use of every opportunity you have*" (TEV). Obviously, the thought is that *we should not waste time but use it properly.*

We should always keep in mind that our time here on earth is limited. Time continues daily, hourly, minute by minute and second by second. Once it is gone, it is gone forever. We cannot stop time nor recall once it is gone. Whether we are "*redeeming*" (making proper use of it) or squandering it, we cannot bring it back and reuse it or try to do better with it. Remember we have certain responsibilities "*because the days are evil.*"

(CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial...

HELL! IS THERE A PLACE OF ETERNAL TORMENT FOR THE WICKED? (NO. 8)

In our prior studies on the subject of *Hell*, it was pointed out that so-called "Jehovah's Witnesses", Seventh Day Adventists, Edward Fudge and other "Materialists" teach that *the wicked will not be tormented eternally*. They contend that the wicked will cease to exist or will be annihilated.

"Jehovah Witnesses" blaspheme the teaching that the wicked will be tormented eternally in a place called hell by calling it a "God-dishonoring doctrine" (Let God Be True, page 88). They assert, but they do not *prove* that such is the case.

In our first two studies it was *proven by the Scriptures* that there is a place called *Hell* where the wicked will be tormented. It was proven by referring to passages in which the word *hell* is used and passages which do not use the word *hell* but use words such as *fire, flaming fire, furnace of fire, lake of fire* and *brimstone, everlasting or eternal fire* and *unquenchable fire* to describe such a place.

In our third study we gave passages that use such words as *punishment, destruction, torment* and *suffering* to describe the *suffering* and *torment* that the inhabitants of *hell* will experience. In our fourth study we gave passages that use words (or expressions) like *mist or gloom of darkness, outer darkness, blackness of darkness, wailing (weeping) and gnashing of teeth* and *perdition* to describe what awaits or is in store for the wicked.

In our last two articles we gave six additional arguments that prove there is a place of torment called *hell*. They were I. JESUS WARNS US ABOUT HELL. II. JESUS DESCRIBES HELL. III. GOD CAN CAST THE WICKED INTO HELL. IV. PUNISHMENT WORSE THAN DEATH FOR WHO DO CONTRARY TO THE TEACHINGS OF THE SCRIPTURES. V. THE LORD WILL TAKE VENGEANCE ON, RECOMPENSING TRIBULATION TO AND PUNISHING THOSE WHO DO NOT OBEY HIM. VI. THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE NOT WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE WILL BE CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE WHERE THE DEVIL, THE BEAST AND THE FALSE PROPHET ARE AND WILL BE TORMENTED FOREVER AND EVER, and. VII. ROM. 2:8-9, REV. 14:9-11 and 2 PETER 2:9.

As we resume our study let us consider some *arguments* that are made in an effort to prove that *there is not a place of eternal torment for the wicked!*

ARGUMENTS MADE BY THOSE WHO REJECT HELL AS REVEALED IN THE SCRIPTURES AND REPLIES TO THEM.

I. ARGUMENT: "No record exists of God's creating a 'hell' of fire for tormenting human souls."
("New Heavens and A New Earth", p. 70)

REPLY:

(1) An assumption and assertion, but no proof given! Not acceptable to honest truth-seekers.

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(2) If we can read in the Scriptures that a place of fire called *hell* does exist (or will exist) where the wicked will be tormented, we do not need a *specific* record of it, do we? If so, why? If it is spoken of, it does (or will) exist!

(3) All things that exist were created by God by (or though) His Son, Jesus Christ! In Eph. 3:9 Paul said: "...God, who created all things by Jesus Christ" and in Col. 1:16 he said: 'For by him (*God's Son* - Ed.) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.'" NOTE: This would include a place of punishment (torment) and Michael the archangel as well as every thing else. *Christ created all things and He was before all things! Believe it!*

(4) There *is a record* of God preparing a place of fire where the wicked (as well as the devil and his angels) will be punished. Read Mt. 25:31-46 for a judgment scene. Notice verse 41: It says: "Then shall he (*the Son of man, the King*- Ed.) say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Then in verse 46 Jesus said: "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

NOTE: The above verses specifically give us a record of a place of "everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" into which the wicked will be told to depart. It is a place of eternal punishment! You can either *believe and accept the Word of God* or you can reject *hell* as revealed in the Scriptures and be among those who will suffer there!

We exhort and urge you not to try to "explain away" the simple truth as taught in Mt. 25:31-46. *Believe it!!*

II. ARGUMENT: "The Bible hell is mankind's common grave." (Let God Be True, p. 92). REPLY:

(1) It is easy to assume and assert a false argument, but that doesn't *prove* that it is true.

(2) A word (Hebrew, Greek or English, etc.) may have different meanings as used in different contexts. To contend that a word always means the same thing every time that it appears is unfair and deceitful. For example, consider the word "*fast*". It may mean *firmly fastened or fixed*, or *swift* or *the practice of abstaining from food*." The meaning is determined by the context in which it is used. Obviously, this is true of most (if not all) words.

(3) The English word *hell* as used in the KJV of the Scriptures is translated from one Hebrew word (*sheol*) and three different Greek words (*hades*, *gehenna* and *tartarus*).

(4) *Sheol* is defined in Young's Analytical Concordance To The Bible, p. 474 as "*The unseen state*". According to the same authority *Hades* is defined to mean "*the unseen world*". (Ibid.) It is defined by A New GREEK-ENGLISH LEXICON to the NEW TESTAMENT by George Ricker Berry, p. 3, as "*the invisible world*." The scholars that I have checked with tell us that "*Hades*" in the New Testament corresponds to "*Sheol*" in the Old Testament.

Tartarus means or refers to "*the place where those angels whose special sin is referred to*" (in 2 Pet. 2:4) are confined to "to be reserved unto the judgment". This word appears only once.

In A New GREEK-ENGLISH LEXICON to the NEW TESTAMENT by George Ricker Berry, p. 21, *Gehenna* is defined as a "*place of punishment in the future world*." In discussing *Gehenna*, Lawrence O. Richards said: "In NT times, the rabbis used (Continued on page 4)

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the word *Gehenna* to indicate the place of final punishment. Jesus maintained this meaning in the Gospels. Jesus often spoke of *Gehenna* in association with fire (Mt. 5:22; 18:9; Mk. 9:43,48). The phrase 'eternal fire' is also used of hell, and human beings will be punished there in a fire prepared for 'the devil and his angels...' (Expository Dictionary of Bible Words, p. 337).

Alexander *Cruden* says: "In the NT the word *hell* is used to translate two words, (1) *Hades*, generally meaning the same as *Sheol*, the place of the dead... (2) *Gehenna*, the place of retribution for evil deeds." (CRUDEN'S COMPLETE CONCORDANCE to the Old and New Testaments, p. 297). NOTE: A few translations do not translate *Sheol*, *Hades* or *Gehenna*. They merely transliterate them.

There are twelve times that the word *Gehenna* is translated *hell* (in the KJV) in the New Testament. The verses are: Mt. 5:22; 5:29, 30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15; 23:33; Mk. 9:43; 9:45; 9:47; Luke 12:5 and James 3:6. Please read

these verses very carefully and honestly and you will see that *hell is* a Bible word. You will also see that *not one time* in any of these verses does *hell* refer to "mankind's common grave." The above argument is completely false! *Hell*, as used in the above twelve verses, is *not* "mankind's common grave." Carefully read and study those verses and you will see that such is *not* the case at all! When the word *hell* is used in other passages it does not mean what it means in the above twelve verses. Consider them *contextually!* Consider each one of them in view of every thing else the Word of God reveals on the subject and related matters. Do not allow your emotions, religious organization or your "headquarters" to keep you from learning, believing and obeying the truth as revealed in the Scriptures. (CRS) (To be continued)

SENTENCE SERMONS

Your expression is one of the most important things you wear.

* * * * *

He who has true friends is blessed far more than he who has only many riches.

* * * * *

A good thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time.

* * * * *

Some times it takes more courage and will power to keep silent than it does to open your mouth.

* * * * *

To improve the world, begin where you are, but please don't stop there.

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